

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1 of the specification, please replace lines 5-18 (the first paragraph), with the following paragraph:

Cross-Reference to Related Applications

This application is a continuation-in-part of serial no. 09/801,566, filed March 7, 2001, and issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,640,027 B2, which is a continuation-in-part of serial no. 09/765,971 filed 01/19/2001, and issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,631,224 B2, which is a continuation-in-part of serial no. 09/729,661 filed 12/04/2000, and issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,510,261, which is a continuation-in-part of serial no. 09/666,763 filed on 09/21/2000, and issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,539,148, which is a continuation-in-part of and claims the benefit of priority from Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/206,767, filed on 5/23/2000, serial no. 09/666,763 and issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,539,148, also being a continuation in part of serial no. 09/571,092 filed 5/15/2000, and issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,253,002, which is a continuation-in-part of serial no. 09/425,099 filed ~~9/23/1999~~ 10/22/1999, and issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,233,379, which is a continuation-in-part of serial no. 09/022,413 filed 02/12/1998, and issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,021,237, which claims priority to KR 97-24796 filed 06/06/1997, all of which applications as are fully incorporated herein by reference.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, starting at line 28, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Numerous optical devices can be coupled to optical fiber 20 including but not limited optical processing components that ~~effect~~affect the condition of the optical

signal. In one embodiment, the optical device is a mode coupler 28. Mode coupler 28 is configured to introduce a mechanical or index deformation of a portion of the optical fiber 20, and create perturbations in the optical modes in fiber 20 and provide a coherent coupling between two modes. Mode coupler 28 can couple a core mode to a cladding mode, one core mode to a different core mode and one cladding mode to a different cladding mode. Suitable mode couplers 28 include AOTF's, acoustic gratings, UV gratings, bending gratings and stress inducted gratings as disclosed in serial no. 09/801,566 filed 03/07/2001, issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,640,027 B2, ~~and identified as attorney docket no. 21501-731~~ and serial no. 09/765,971 filed 01/19/2001, fully incorporated herein.